GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1811
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2001
FEAR OF CYCLONE AMONGST SALT WORKERS OF KUTCH
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of salt workers from Kutch were washed away, killed and remained missing during the 1998 cyclone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the salt workers were left in panic this time, merely after cyclone danger warnings without any steps taken by the Government to move them to safer places or providing them shelter; and

(d) if so, the number of such workers and their families awaiting their death and destruction without any Government aid for shelter?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) & (b): The Government of Gujarat have informed that 767 salt pan workers,including those who were reported missing earlier by the State Government, were dead in the cyclone of June,1998.

(c) & (d): Keeping in view the fact that in a cyclone, this group alongwith fishermen are in the most vulnerable category, by way of abundant caution, these groups were evacuated to safer places when there was an apprehension of occurrence of a severe cyclone in Jue,2001, which fortunately did not hit the coast. This was a reversible arrangement and at present there are no evacuees.